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THURSDAY
APRIL 30, 1953

The Conference having concluded, today was indicated on the program as one of "distractions" and the delegates have dispersed according to their tastes. E. and I concluded negotiations that have been in progress off and on since we arrived. She acquired a brooch with a Moorish head and bust, ornamented with semi-precious stones. I laid out the sum of $700 for two [redacted] lions in wood painted a dark silver with gilt manes and tails - very elegant, a table with a false marble top upheld by a Moor, and a painting of a perhaps imaginary villa on the ocean. Also, I had a twenty-year-old dressing gown relined with silk.

We dawdled amongst the pigeons in the sunny Piazza San Marco, entered the Cathedral, gaped with admiration at the varied marbles and with curiosity at the mosaics, observed a furry bronze giant give the noonday strokes on the great bell tower, visited the Correr Museum, had a white Cinzano with Hervé and Gris on the pavement of the Square, lunched with them at the Taverna Venice, packed, paid bills until it hurt, tipped the already tipped, descended into a gondola, undulated to the railroad station where we ran the gauntlet of a man who helps you out of the gondola, a representative of the Gritti Hotel who accompanied us to the gate, an individual who held our tickets, a porter who carried our three bags, another porter who dusted a bench in case we wished to sit, and a station employee who showed us to our compartment. I relieved Italian unemployment as best I could and we left Venice with approximately ten cents in Italian money by the 5:05 p.m. express for Paris. The dining car steward must have mistaken us for visitors of mark, for we were given a four-place table to ourselves and plied with special delicacies. The [illegible] MUCH.

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plain which we traversed, much of it irrigated, with the Alps in the distance, beggars comparison. I hope some day to see some of the Palladian villas, of which one has imperfect glimpses.

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